

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FACE COVERINGS ON CITY OF MANKATO TRANSIT SYSTEM BUSES

Why should a face covering be worn?

Wearing masks helps you protect others by preventing your germs from infecting them, especially in situations where you may spread the virus without symptoms. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and pharmacies.

Why are face coverings required on buses?

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health recommend that everyone wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Cloth face coverings prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading respiratory droplets when talking, sneezing, or coughing.

Based on public health guidance, face coverings have been encouraged on buses since early April. Since that time, face coverings have become a stronger point of emphasis among public health officials, and are expected to play an even larger role when restrictions on businesses and other gatherings loosen. The requirement will remain in place until further notice.

Who is required to wear a face covering?

Any individual 13 and older able to medically tolerate a face covering is required to cover their nose and mouth in accordance with CDC guidance when in indoor spaces of public accommodation. All employers of businesses considered spaces of public accommodation must require employees to wear a face covering whenever they have face-to-face contact with the public.

What is a space of public accommodation?

A business, refreshment, entertainment, or recreation facility, or place whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or otherwise made available to the public. Examples include: retail stores, rental establishments, City of Mankato government buildings and buses, service establishments, recreational facilities, grocery stores, markets, convenience stores, pharmacies, drug stores and food pantries.

I cannot wear a face covering. Am I required to prove that?

No. The order does not require documentation or reason for not wearing a face covering. If a face covering cannot be worn, it's important to practice social distancing (also known as physical distancing), stay at least six feet away from others, stay home if you're sick, cover your cough and wash your hands.

When do the requirements go into effect?

July 10

Types of coverings

- A cloth face covering fully covers a person's nose and mouth, but is not a medical-grade mask.
- A medical-grade mask means an N95, KN95, surgical, or other mask that would be appropriate for a healthcare or direct patient care setting.

Face covering tips

- Make sure face covering covers your mouth and nose but isn't overly tight or restrictive.
- Choose a soft fabric, such as cotton knit or use a bandana or scarf if that feels more comfortable.

Is wearing a face covering safe?

They are safe for nearly everyone. Public health experts agree face coverings are an important tool in preventing COVID-19 and research is increasingly suggesting widespread use is effective.



311 or 507-625-RIDE (7433)
mankatomn.gov

What kind of face coverings are recommended?

Cloth face coverings should be made from tightly woven cotton, such as material from a T-shirt or bed sheets. Directions for making and properly wearing a mask are available on the CDC website at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov). Bandanas, scarves, face shields, or other types of cloth face coverings are also considered acceptable.

Online resources providing guidance on wearing and making your own face masks:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html

Minnesota Department of Health

health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html

How will the requirement be enforced?

Plans are to ask for voluntary compliance through educational efforts. Drivers will remind customers to cover their faces while riding the bus. The first intervention after education and information will be a warning. If non-compliance continues, additional steps may be taken.

Can service be denied if an individual is not wearing a face covering?

No, service cannot be denied and customers will not be removed if they are not wearing a face covering.

Are face coverings being made available?

Yes. Face coverings will be made available to on-site essential staff, including operators and passengers.

What should I say if I see someone not wearing a face covering?

Nothing. Some people have conditions or circumstances that would make wearing a face covering difficult or dangerous. Be kind. Provide your own social distance. Contact management if concerned.

What do I do if I see a clear violation inside a space of public accommodation?

Contact the manager, business owner or supervisor to report it. Businesses are responsible for enforcing the face covering ordinance.

What other safety precautions should be taken?

Wash your hands frequently, cover your cough and practice physical distancing by keeping at least six feet of space between people. More information is available on the CDC website.

Are there exceptions to wearing a face covering related to bus service within this requirement?

Yes. Each type of setting may have additional precautions in place that should be followed. Exceptions include:

- Children 12 years of age and under.
- Medical conditions that make it difficult to breathe, a mental health condition, developmental disability, or other conditions covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or those who care for or interact with a person who is hearing impaired.
- Persons otherwise unable to remove face covering without assistance.

Thank you in advance for taking this additional step to help protect those around you.
For more information contact staff at 507 625-7433 or 311.



#MaskupMankato